

Effective community building is the goal

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Daniel Murphy, Brandi Page, Dixie Palmer, Maggie Peyton, Alexis Posley, Christopher Richardson, George Tice, Donna Webb, Sandy Welch, and Jan Wright.

Tom Gallagher, Director of the Institute said "We are delighted with the positive response to our invitation to join the program. We know that some good candidates were not invited for this class, but there will be future classes and opportunities. We look forward to getting to know the community well, and through the participants, forming a long-term relationship with the community."

The Institute engages eight new communities in the Leadership Program each year, four in the fall and four in the spring. This is the third year of the program; 16 communities have graduated their first leadership class bringing the total number

of graduates to 322. The other communities entering the program this fall are Bandon, Wal-lowa County, and Sherman County.

Classes in the leadership program are presented in the community. Rural Development Initiatives, Inc., a nationally recognized community-building non-profit located in Oregon, coordinates the program and provides qualified trainers. The curriculum emphasizes basic knowledge and skills, such as working in groups, conflict resolution, meeting management and fundraising.

A key part of the curriculum is a community project; the Institute provides up to a \$10,000 match for the project. The class practices its new knowledge and skills as they identify and develop the project.

Mid-course through the curriculum the Institute brings together the four communities that start the program simulta-

neously to share ideas about communities, projects, common needs and aspirations.

The intent of the program is to build the capacity of rural citizens, their non-profit organizations, and their communities to take on challenges and opportunities together. The Institute selects communities that are "ready," that are making good things happen but could use additional support. To nominate a community, please contact Gallagher at 541-957-5574.

The mission of The Ford Family Foundation is "to help individuals through organized learning opportunities to be contributing and successful citizens and to enhance the vitality of rural communities." In addition to the Ford Institute, the Foundation provides college scholarships and grants for a variety of community purposes. More information about the Foundation is available on the web at <www.tfff.org>.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Vernonia High School
Friday, February 25
12:30 - 5:30 PM
Save a Life. Donate Blood.

Rally cars will return in April

The Oregon Rally Group held a meeting February 9 at the Vernonia Fire Hall to announce their intention to hold one stage of this year's Oregon Trail Rally in the Vernonia area.

As was done last year, Oregon Trail Rally will utilize Vernonia's school grounds for the service park for a portion of the event. The three-day event will start in Portland on Friday, April 22, go to the Tillamook area on Saturday, and be in Vernonia on Sunday, April 24.

For those unfamiliar with Rally, it is a motor sport with street-legal, modified production cars racing a clock on

timed 'stages'; the cars are released onto each 'stage' one at a time. 'Stages' are usually held on closed dirt/gravel roads. Performance rallying is currently the world's most popular motor sport.

Change of date for Columbia 9-1-1 meet

The Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District Board of Directors meeting scheduled for the third Thursday of the month will be held Thursday, February 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District Facility in St. Helens.

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	* 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	Buckhorn Restaurant
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-0188
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Home Extension Club	3rd Thursday	10:30 a.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	6:30 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	4th Saturday	10:30 a.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 503-429-5201
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	3rd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Schlegel Hall
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Women's Aglow	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.